

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

TONI CHAVES,

Plaintiff,

vs.

COGENT MEDICAL LABORATORY,
LLC,

Defendant.

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SA-19-CV-00861-ESC

ORDER

Before the Court in the above-styled cause of action is the Unopposed Motion of Defendant's Counsel to Withdraw [#23]. By his motion, Defendant's counsel, Michael Galo, asks the Court to permit him to withdraw from representation of Defendant Cogent Medical Laboratory, LLC due to Defendant's lack of responsiveness to any communication from counsel and a past due balance with counsel's law firm. On February 7, 2020, the Court issued an Order directing Mr. Galo to serve Defendant with a letter explaining he is seeking to withdraw as counsel and advising Defendant that, as an LLC, it must find substitute counsel or face the possibility of a default judgment. Mr. Galo filed an Advisory with the Court on February 14, 2020 [#26] attaching the letter he sent to Defendant. The Court has reviewed the correspondence and finds that it adequately apprises Defendant of the risks of proceeding without counsel in federal court. The Court will therefore permit Mr. Galo to withdraw.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Unopposed Motion of Defendant's Counsel to Withdraw [#23] filed by Michael Galo is **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Michael Galo is hereby **WITHDRAWN** as counsel for Defendant Cogent Medical Laboratory, LLC.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court transmit a copy of this Order to Defendant at rgates@cogentmedlab.com and by mail to Mr. Robert Gates, Cogent Medical Laboratory, LLC, 6914 Yorktown Ave., Suite 110, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74136.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that on or before **March 18, 2020**, Defendant shall **FILE AN ADVISORY** with the Court indicating whether it has obtained substitute counsel. Defendant is admonished that as an LLC, it may not proceed *pro se* in federal court, and failure to obtain substitute counsel could result in a default judgment being entered against the Company.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

SIGNED this 18th day of February, 2020.



ELIZABETH S. ("BETSY") CHESTNEY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE